



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 October 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- *The Associated Press* reports that California has become the first state to pass a bill banning toys and baby products containing more than one tenth of one percent of phthalates -- a chemical used to soften plastics that scientists have linked to health problems. Oregon, Maryland and New York are considering similar bills on phthalates. (See item [3](#))
- *The Associated Press* reports that all lanes were reopened Monday on I-5 near Los Angeles, California, following a fiery Friday night accident involving several dozen trucks and other vehicles. Two men and an infant died and at least 10 people were injured, according to authorities. Investigators are still looking into the cause of the accident. (See item [13](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 15, The Department of Energy* – (District of Columbia) **DOE Office of Science publishes update of landmark plan.** The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science today released a comprehensive update of its landmark 2003 publication, *Facilities for the Future of Science: A Twenty-Year Outlook* that shows the agency has made "significant progress" in deploying the scientific facilities and instruments that the United States needs to capture world scientific leadership, extend the frontiers of science and support the

Department's missions. When it was published four years ago, the Facilities Outlook was the first long-range facilities plan prioritized across disciplines ever issued by a government science funding agency anywhere in the world. It remains so today – and serves as a model for other countries and regions that are developing roadmaps for research infrastructures.

Source: http://media-newswire.com/release_1055959.html

2. *October 15, Wallaces Farmer* – (Iowa) **Magellan opens new biodiesel blending facility.** A new biodiesel blending facility opened last week at Clear Lake in northern Iowa. The Iowa Soybean Association and the Iowa Biodiesel Board helped sponsor the “grand opening” ceremony. Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P., headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has an 8,500-mile pipeline system that crosses 13 states and extends from the Gulf Coast throughout the middle portion of the United States. The new biodiesel blending facility at Clear Lake has the capability to blend at B2 (a blend of 2% biodiesel and 98% diesel) or B5, B10 and B20. The new system has an 84,000-gallon tank with insulation and heating of all affected pipelines, including truck offloading lines and lines supplying the loading rack. The benefits of blending biodiesel at the rack instead of splash-blending includes better mixing of fuels in cold weather, one-stop loading of biodiesel, better accuracy for blend percentages, and blending documentation on a single bill-of-lading.

Source: <http://wallacesfarmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=30420&fpstd=2>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry

3. *October 15, Associated Press* – (California) **California bans chemical found in toys.** California has banned toys and baby products containing more than a trace amount of a chemical used to soften plastics that scientists have linked to health problems. The ban on phthalate makes California the first state to impose severe limits on a chemical that is widely used in baby bottles, soft baby books, teething rings, plastic bath ducks and other toys, said the bill's author. Beginning in 2009, any product made for young children that contains more than one tenth of one percent of phthalates cannot be made, sold or distributed in California. Oregon, Maryland and New York are also considering bills that would ban phthalates in certain products.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/15/AR2007101500184.html>
4. *October 15, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **VX nerve agent next target at Umatilla Chemical Depot.** The Umatilla Chemical Depot could begin its next phase of chemical weapons destruction in early November and start destroying VX nerve agent-filled munitions. Since the incinerator destroyed the last of the depot's GB sarin-filled projectiles in July, the facility has been getting ready to handle a new type of nerve agent. Workers at the depot and incinerator are eager to resume burning the weapons, officials said. That process has included repairs and modifications to equipment that has worn down over three years of burning sarin nerve agent, adding agent monitors and retraining the work force. As they did with sarin, crews at the depot incinerator will begin by destroying the site's 14,519 M55 rockets filled with VX. Because the rockets still contain explosives and propellant, they are considered the most dangerous of the remaining stockpile, said the depot site project manager. That means the

rockets could explode, vaporize the nerve agent and send a deadly plume off the base. When the sarin-filled M55 rockets were destroyed, it dramatically reduced the potential risk to the public from an accidental release.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/v-rss/story/9381548p-9294929c.html>

5. *October 15, Associated Press* – (California) **Explosion rocks UC Santa Barbara lab.** An explosion rocked the chemistry building at University of California, Santa Barbara. A teacher assistant escaped the weekend blast without any injuries and the building reopened several hours later. There was no fire. The explosion — involving phosphorus oxychloride and sodium metal — was contained by a scrubber hood system that purified the air of hazardous materials released by the chemical reaction. The lone lab worker left the lab and the door automatically shut behind him to seal off the area moments after the Saturday afternoon explosion.
Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/breakingnews/story/167061.html>

6. *October 15, WSOC* – (South Carolina) **Evacuees allowed to return home after chemical leak at Rock Hill Water Plant.** Rock Hill residents were forced out of their homes around lunchtime, hours after chlorine dioxide leaked from a tank at a water treatment plant early Monday. A major road was shutdown shortly after the leak was discovered and officials first told residents of voluntary evacuations. After the wind picked up, mandatory evacuations were instituted for about 1,500 people at homes and businesses. Those people were told they could return home around 1 p.m. They are still advised to stay way from the plant. Workers performing a routine inspection found green film on the walls and windows and knew there had to be a leak. Officials said between 4 and 25 pounds of chlorine dioxide gas spilled from a device that pulsates small amounts of the chlorine mixture into the water as a disinfectant. There is no danger to drinking water, but air quality was a concern. State health and environmental control employees shut off the leak within an hour, but firefighters and hazardous materials crews are still investigating and trying to make sure the spill was contained to one building.
Source: <http://www.wsoc.tv.com/news/14339895/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

7. *October 15, The Greenville News* – (South Carolina) **Nuclear waste piling up at Oconee power plant.** An armed security guard walked alongside a forklift hauling new fuel rods to a reactor unit at Oconee Nuclear Station one recent morning. The protected delivery was part of the preparations underway for a routine refueling and maintenance outage at Oconee's Unit 3 that starts this month. Reporters on a media tour were not allowed pictures of the guard with a gun slung from his shoulder, a woman with a clipboard beside him or the cargo itself – a long gray container not more than a couple feet high balanced on the prongs of the forklift. Heightened security around the delivery at the Duke Energy facility was obvious. Less obvious was a growing graveyard of nuclear waste elsewhere on the site that is filling up with material many in the nuclear industry expected would be at Yucca Mountain or some other national repository by now. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 called for the federal government to provide a permanent deep geological repository. A 1987 amendment called for the Department of Energy to locate, build and operate a repository by 1998. The stockpiling issues come at a

time when one company has applied to build the first new nuclear plant in nearly three decades in the U.S., and as several other companies announced plans to follow suit.

Source:

<http://greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071015/NEWS01/710150321>

8. *October 14, Gannet News Service* – (South Carolina) **State may get 4 new nuclear power plants.** South Carolina, which relies on nuclear power for more than half of its energy, could add four plants by 2016, with substantial federal subsidies available to help do it. These benefits include loan guarantees, tax credits, shared costs and payments in cases of regulatory delays that could total billions of dollars. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is expecting applications for 29 new U.S. reactors by the 2008 deadline. Duke Energy Corp. may make a final decision on two reactors near Gaffney by year's end, about the same time SCANA Corp. plans to decide on two others near Jenkinsville. The last nuclear plant built in the state was finished in 1986. The state's seven nuclear units produce nearly 53 percent of South Carolina's electricity, the second highest percentage behind Vermont, according to Energy Department statistics. Nationally, 19 percent of electricity is produced by nuclear power plants.

Source:

<http://greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071014/NEWS01/710140323>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *October 15, PR Newswire* – (Alabama) **Lockheed Martin inaugurates Target Single Integration Capability for the Missile Defense Agency.** The U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and Lockheed Martin inaugurated the new Targets and Countermeasures Single Integration Capability in Courtland, Alabama today. The Courtland capability will provide the most efficient, effective method for assembling and integrating realistic targets for the Ballistic Missile Defense System. Lockheed Martin, as the MDA's prime contractor for Targets and Countermeasures, will deliver targets from Courtland to ranges around the globe to test Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, Aegis, Ground-based Midcourse, Airborne Laser, sensors and other Ballistic Missile Defense System elements – demonstrating both element- and system-level capabilities against current and future threats to the U.S., friends, allies and troops abroad.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/071015/aqm046.html?.v=23>

10. *October 15, Mass High Tech* – (Massachusetts) **Defense firm dealt a \$4M Army combat-development order.** An Andover-based research operation has won a contract to help the Army improve combat and training. Dynamics Research Corp. (DRC) reports that it was awarded a \$4 million task order by the U.S. Army's Armor School and Center Directorate of Training, Doctrine and Combat Development. The order calls for DRC to provide combat development and assessment at Ft. Knox, Kentucky and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Ft. Benning, Georgia. The task order, with a ceiling of \$97 million, covers one year, with two optional years. The DRC-led team is one of five prime contractors on the award, which will provide training, doctrine, and combat development functions associated with modular and future combat systems (FCS) equipped forces.

Source:

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *October 15, The Detroit Free Press* – (National) **Phony check schemes are bouncing back.**
According to the National Consumer League, schemes involving fake checks cost the victims on average between \$3,000 and \$4,000. The schemes come in various forms, but the most common current scams include big lottery or jackpot winnings and work-from-home scams. In both cases, recipients receive checks featuring a larger sum of money than requested or desired, and wire the difference back to the fraudsters before they are informed by their banks that the checks were fraudulent. A senior vice president of the fraud services department for Comerica Bank in Auburn Hills, Michigan said that the checks look so authentic that even bank tellers are not able to identify them as fake. However, the bank official recommended that people tell their banks where and how they received the check before depositing it.
Source: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071015/COL07/710150377/1002>
12. *October 14, St. Louis Today* – (National) **Child ID theft is a growing financial problem.**
According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft reports for victims under 18 years old increased from 6,512 in 2003 to 10,835 in 2006 representing 5 percent of all identity thefts. The report lists teens as particularly vulnerable because of their increased access to the internet. One concern is that the identity theft may go unnoticed until many years later, when the victim becomes an adult and applies for a credit card. Authorities say that often the crime is committed by the children's own parents or relatives, who apply for credit using the child's social security number. These crimes can go unreported because victims who do eventually discover the crimes do not seek legal ramifications against loved ones. The vice president of public education at Experian, one of the three major credit bureaus, advises parents to "monitor their child's online activity; do not ignore the junk mail the child receives; if they sign up their child for a magazine subscription to put it under their name; and do not let children keep their Social Security cards in their wallets." Moreover, if parents suspect their children's identity was stolen, they should check immediately to see if a credit file was created on their child.
Source:
<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/business/stories.nsf/yourmoney/story/088AB3C9CBEEAF8786257373000E9D6B?OpenDocument>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *October 15, Associated Press* – (California) **L.A. faces rush-hour nightmare after tunnel pileup.** Interstate 5 near Los Angeles, California was expected to re-open Monday morning after Friday night's accident resulted in two dozen trucks and other vehicles in flames. The road closed after two big rigs collided in a tunnel that runs beneath eight lanes of I-5, igniting a fire, which spread from one vehicle to another killing two men and an infant and injuring at least 10 people, according to authorities. I-5 is not only a major route connecting Mexico and Canada, but also an important road for commuters to and from Los Angeles and its northern

suburbs. To accommodate the travelers, Metrolink announced on Monday nonstop service with extra cars between downtown Los Angeles and Santa Clarita. California's governor declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles County, although an official with the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy said that the shutdown will not significantly affect the state's economy. Investigators are still looking into the cause of the accident.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/14/tunnel.fire.ap/index.html>

14. *October 15, The Indianapolis Star* – (National) **Four U.S. states ponder dedicated truck lanes on interstate.** In order to decrease congestion on their highways and improve freight delivery, the states of Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio will conduct a study that will evaluate the effects of possible truck-only lanes. The project, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, will involve two lanes each way on a 750-mile stretch of I-70 from Kansas City to the Ohio-West Virginia border. The study will also look at truck tolls for dedicated lanes for commercial trucks. The portion of the road that will be taken into consideration for the study experiences a daily traffic flow of between 11,000 to 26,000 trucks, which is expected to exceed 100,000 by 2035.

Source: <http://www.todaystrucking.com/news.cfm?intDocID=18580>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *October 14, USA Today* – (Delaware) **Delaware port launches ID card program.** The Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program will be launched for the first time in Wilmington, Delaware, on Tuesday. The nearly \$100 million program was supposed to start in July at the nation's top 10 high-risk ports, and at 40 more ports by January 1. However, Homeland Security announced that it will take another year before all the machines necessary to ready the new ID cards will be put in place. According to the program, all workers will have to pass background checks and have their names run through immigration and terrorist watch lists.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-14-ID-cards_N.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *October 15, Midsouth Farmer* – (International) **Very little progress on beef trade with South Korea.** A group of trade negotiators from the U.S. Trade Representative's office and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) traveled to Seoul, South Korea to discuss beef trade last Thursday and Friday. The USDA undersecretary led the team, which hoped to widen beef trade with South Korea. However, the discussions were not as successful as the team had hoped. The team of negotiators representing United States Trade Representatives and USDA will be traveling to several other countries over the next few weeks to urge trading partners to move to international science-based guidelines in regards to U.S. beef.

Source: <http://midsouthfarmer.com/index.aspx?asexid=fpStory&fpsid=30430&fpstid=1>

17. *October 15, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. officials braced for foot-and-mouth scare in**

Midwest. When there were fears of a foot-and-mouth outbreak in Austin, Minnesota this summer, the White House received secret briefings that highlighted the potential for old farm diseases to be new national security threats. The outbreak never occurred, as it turned out that the 200 pigs suspected of having foot and mouth disease were suffering from another illness that did not pose a threat to the cattle industry. Regardless, the incident afforded state and federal officials the opportunity to practice responding to a potential outbreak. The effort involved national security and agriculture officials and included the departments of State, Transportation, and Health and Human Services.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,301712,00.html>

18. *October 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Critics: Conagra mishandled recall.** Critics say ConAgra Foods Inc.'s delay in recalling pot pies linked to a nationwide salmonella outbreak increased the chance that more people would become sick, opened up the company to greater liability, and exposed voluntary recalls as a key weakness in the nation's food safety system. ConAgra issued a health alert Tuesday afternoon and asked stores nationwide to stop selling Banquet and store-brand chicken and turkey pot pies, but the company did not recall the pies until Thursday evening. The company and federal officials warned customers not to eat the pot pies and to throw them away, and ConAgra is offering refunds. Even though the pot pies made by ConAgra have been linked to at least 174 cases of salmonella in 32 states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture did not have the authority to require the company to recall the pot pies.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iOShDbpIsxytLbqShbc9l8FmfMEwD8S974VG0>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

19. *October 15, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Water may be more limited.** Within two weeks, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division director, who has the authority to limit water use as necessary with as little as five days' notice, is expected to send options to tighten water restrictions to the governor. Water experts around the nation say they do not recall any major U.S. metro area being forced into such dire drought measures in about two decades. In metro Atlanta, several businesses say they do not know what the state may force them to do. With 1,260 guest rooms, the Hyatt Regency Atlanta uses tens of millions of gallons of water a year. However, the hotel's senior director of engineering said many conservation measures are already in place. The hotel outsources its laundry to a facility outside metro Atlanta, guests are requested to hang up their towels if they do not need to be laundered, rooms have low-flow fixtures, the cooling system optimizes water use and, since the drought deepened, irrigation of plants has been done with condensation from the cooling system. The hotel now puts fewer water pitchers in meeting rooms, he said. Some local governments in Georgia are working up their own plans.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/10/14/waterwoes_1015.html?cxntlid=homepage_tab_newstab

20. *October 13, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. water is getting worse.** The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that supplies water to two-thirds of California's population and serves as

one of the most important wildlife habitats on the West Coast is in worse shape than ever, despite \$4.7 billion in government spending. Most of the budget of the California Federal Bay-Delta Program, or CalFed, has been spent on water projects hundreds of miles away, according to an *Associated Press* review. Many of those projects are regarded by environmentalists and policymakers as worthwhile in their own right, but they have done almost nothing to achieve the main goals state and federal lawmakers originally laid out for CalFed. Scientists and politicians agree that native fish species continue to plummet; pesticides, fertilizers and other pollutants are making the overall water quality worse; invasive species of fish, clams, algae and other organisms are still spreading; and the delta's antiquated earthen levees have not been reinforced to withstand a major earthquake, something that could cause deadly, catastrophic flooding and cut off water to millions of people for perhaps years. CalFed was supposed to achieve four objectives over 30 years: maintain a steady supply of water from the delta; improve water quality; reduce the risks of a catastrophic breach in the levees; and restore the ecosystem for plants and animals. Most politicians agree that CalFed has been a disappointment, but as one Californian senator pointed out, "CalFed was never meant to be the be-all and end-all. It was a methodology to try to get the federal government and the state working together."

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gHPJw7iqsc7nwGbc_KmNJ9vVEzXAD8S7VLU80

21. *October 13, North County Times* – (California) **Water agencies planning in case of water cuts.** With statewide shortages looming, Southern California water agencies are scrambling to create a detailed plan of how much water they would get if supplies are cut. The region could lose 30 percent of its Northern California water supplies next year because of a court ruling to cut use of the pumps that send Northern California rainfall and snowmelt south to the semi-arid southland. The pumps, which provide much of the region's water, are killing an endangered fish, prompting the federal courts to step in. A number of smaller water agencies in Southern California have historically fought over their rights to water during shortages, and old arguments over which communities should endure deeper cuts could resurface as officials work out shortage plans.

Source: http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/10/14/news/top_stories/22_02_2010_13_07.txt

22. *October 12, The Associated Press* – (California) **Water at Merced jail spurs arsenic claim.** On Thursday, Merced County, California employees filed a \$400 million claim against the county stating that officials knew drinking water at the jail and juvenile hall contained unsafe levels of arsenic. The claim covers 400 current and former employees of the John Latorraca Correctional Facility along with people that ate food made using water from the jail, said the plaintiffs' attorney. Inmates are not covered in the claim. A county spokesman denied the charges, and said levels of arsenic in the jail's water system did not pose an imminent threat.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20071012-1706-ca-brf-sjvalley-taintedjailwater.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *October 16, Stars and Stripes, Pacific Edition* – (National) **IAAFES steps up toy toxicity**

tests due to safety concerns. Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) officials said Wednesday they have stepped up toxicity testing of toys sold in AAFES stores, following a string of recalls by manufacturers and retailers of Chinese-made toys for high levels of lead-based paint. Tough additional testing, which began in August, has generated no new recalls, and an AAFES spokesman said that chemical spot checks for toxicity will continue to “supplement the existing physical toy-testing program already in place at AAFES’ Dallas lab.” He added that if a recall occurred, AAFES would work with the Consumer Product Safety Commission to alert exchange customers, stores and distribution centers.
Source: <http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=49523>

24. *October 14, Agence France Presse* – (International) **Indonesian boy dies of bird flu.** A 12-year-old Indonesian boy who had tested positive for the H5N1 virus, died on Saturday, raising the nation’s avian flu death toll to 88, the health ministry said. He was the country’s 109th confirmed case of infection.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gv2741aiy8nOLesNQPf6AeUs-Eiw>

25. *October 14, Reuters* – (National) **Illinois firm recalls beef patties on E. coli scare.** J&B Meats Corp. is recalling 173,554 pounds of frozen ground beef products sold under “Topps” and “Sam’s Choice” labels due to possible E. coli contamination, the U.S. government said this weekend. The company produced the patties in June and distributed them to retail stores nationwide, the U.S. Agriculture Department’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) said in a statement.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21297619/>

26. *October 13, The New York Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Professor pleads guilty in case related to bacteria art project.** The chairman of the Human Generics Department at the University of Pittsburgh has plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge that he did not follow proper procedures in mailing the materials, after he supplied microbes to an art professor through the mail for one of that professor’s art exhibits. The mailing of the bacteria came to the attention of authorities when paramedics, responding to a 911 call regarding the collapse of his wife, found Petri dishes in the house of the professor who received the bacteria. The FBI began investigating, apparently concerned that the professor might be operating a bioterrorism lab out of his home. Though it has been determined that the professor’s wife died due to a fatal heart attack unrelated to the bacteria, federal authorities decided to charge both men with misdemeanors, citing public health concerns.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/13/arts/design/13arts-AGUILTYPLEAI_BRF.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1192370622-taiderAErxGXgvnA+jXulg&oref=slogin

Government Facilities Sector

27. *October 13, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Schools report spike in staph infections.** Schools across the country are reporting outbreaks of staph infections, particularly among athletes, and the germs include an antibiotic-resistant strain that is sometimes associated with serious skin problems and blood disorders. The infections have forced districts to call off classes, cancel

sporting events and disinfect entire buildings. Several students have been hospitalized. Many of the infections are being spread in gyms and locker rooms, where athletes — perhaps suffering from cuts or abrasions — share sports equipment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta does not track staph infections but confirmed that the cases seem to be more widespread than in the past. The drug-resistant strain, called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* strain, or MRSA, resists treatment with penicillin and related antibiotics but can be treated with other drugs. The potentially fatal germ typically thrives in health care settings where people have open wounds. However, in recent years, outbreaks have also occurred in schools.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iVIZQ8SjI0GjCjoR3vID1BOjebAD8S7VOS80>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

28. *October 15, The Times Herald* – (Michigan; International) **Law will not affect emergency response.** Firefighters will not need to carry a passport when a new law goes into effect next year to come into Port Huron when the Sarnia, Ontario, Canada and Port Huron, Michigan fire departments utilize their mutual-aid agreement, a customs spokesman said. Sarnia's mayor raised concerns firefighters would have to stop and show passports to customs and border protection agents before being allowed to help the Port Huron Fire Department. "Our people aren't carrying that type of identification when they're involved in fighting fires," he said. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman said that when the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is enacted on Jan. 31, 2008, first responders do not have to have passports to enter the country. The law requires anyone entering the United States to have a passport or a Nexus card. "We realize that persons may not cross the border for any other purpose," he said. "They will be allowed to enter the United States after they pass initial inspection, even if they don't have a valid passport with them." He said an initial inspection consists of typical border interactions: firefighters would give their name, where they're from and why they are crossing the border. Border workers would have the authority to waive requirements in the case of an emergency, he said.

Source:

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071015/NEWS01/710150307/1002>

29. *October 13, CBC News* – (Canada) **Winnipeg paramedics call for bulletproof vests.** Winnipeg paramedics say they are increasingly dealing with cases involving violent crime - and they are not properly equipped to deal with it. Other Canadian cities, including Toronto, Calgary and even the northern Manitoba city of Thompson provide paramedics with bulletproof vests - and Winnipeg should do the same, said the vice-president of the city's paramedic union. Winnipeg paramedics are allowed to wear bulletproof vests, but they must provide them themselves. "The general consensus when the vests first appeared was a lot of the members felt it was overkill. But lately, more and more people are going, 'You know, maybe it wasn't,'" he said. Many Winnipeg paramedics have stories about encounters with violent patients, some of them armed, according to the same source. "Our members believe that their safety and health is something that's important. They all want to go home, the same as anybody else," he said. Bulletproof vests would better protect paramedics from violent or

armed patients, and it could also help in motor-vehicle collisions, the No. 1 cause of death on the job for the profession, said the official. Further training on dealing with hostile patients would also be useful, he said.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Winnipeg-Paramedics-Call-for-Bulletproof-Vests/1\\$6336](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Winnipeg-Paramedics-Call-for-Bulletproof-Vests/1$6336)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

30. *October 15, Computerworld* – (Ohio) **‘Management Glitch’ is blamed in Ohio tape theft.**

An Ohio state official must surrender a week of future vacation time as punishment for a “management glitch” that led to the theft of a backup tape holding Social Security numbers and other personal data on more than 100,000 state employees and taxpayers. The state issued the punishment late last month to the payroll team leader for the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System ERP project of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, according to the department’s communications office. The tape was stolen in June from an intern’s car. An official from the office also noted that although the tape was his department’s responsibility, it was regularly handled by individuals from other agencies. “Part of the problem is that [the data] was outside of any one person’s hands. There were people coming in from agencies to do data migration and testing” who were adding data to the drive, he said. “One lesson that the state learned is that we need to throw more resources at security and privacy when we have an issue like that,” he added. An analyst at Enterprise Strategy Group Inc. in Milford, Massachusetts, said the minimal punishment indicates that there is not a widespread security problem. “If there was a pattern of incompetence,” she said, “then typically the person would lose their job.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=305393&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

31. *October 15, IDG News Service* – (National) **Researcher: Mac OS, Linux probably have URI**

issues too. The problems with URI protocol handlers that are registered unnecessarily and with little thought given to security are not just limited to Windows, researchers say. In fact, an analyst at Ernst & Young Global, and one of the researchers who has been studying the problem most closely, says he hopes to present more details on how other Unix-based operating systems like Linux and Mac OS X may also be susceptible to what are known as URI (Uniform Resource Identifier) protocol handler flaws at the Toorcon hacking conference, being held next week in San Diego. In an interview, he said that he had not yet found a way to run unauthorized code on Unix-based operating systems, but that he and his fellow researchers had discovered a number of issues that looked like they could be grounds for further research. The problem they have been researching over the past few months has to do with the URI protocol handling technology, used to launch programs from within Web browsers. Probably the best known of these protocols is mailto, which is used to launch the mail client from within the browser. But any software developer can register their own application with the operating system. To date, hackers have found ways to run unauthorized software on the PC by sneaking commands into specially crafted Web links that use the URI protocols of several well-known applications. Microsoft had originally said that it was up to software developers to make sure

their programs check the links so that they do not include malicious code, but this week it agreed to put some checks within the Windows operating system as well.

Source:

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071015/NEWS01/710150307/1002>

32. *October 15, Computerworld* – (National) **Commerce bank thwarts a major database hack.**

A Midwestern bank last week said it was able to deflect most of a hacking attempt on its database, but not before some customer information was divulged. Commerce Bank NA, which operates in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Oklahoma and Colorado, last week said a hacker had breached a database with about 3,000 customer records and accessed 20 of them. The hacking was quickly detected and stopped, said the unit of Kansas City, Missouri-based Commerce Bancshares Inc. Officials added that law enforcement agencies were notified of the breach. The bank said that it is contacting all customers who may have been affected and that it will provide them with free credit monitoring services for 24 months. Commerce Bank did not disclose how the hackers accessed its database.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=305311&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

33. *October 12, IDG News Service* – (National) **Critical Oracle patches coming this week.**

Oracle Corp. will release security updates for its products next week fixing 51 vulnerabilities in its products. Included in the Critical Patch Update, set to be released Tuesday, will be critical updates for the company's flagship Oracle Database. Twenty-seven database bugs will be fixed, but five of the bugs can be "exploited over a network without the need for a username and password," Oracle said in a note on next week's patches. Fixes are also planned for Oracle's Application Server, E-Business Suite and Enterprise Manager software. There will also be patches for three vulnerabilities in the company's PeopleSoft Enterprise products. After the database software, the Application Server and E-Business suite will get the most patches with 11 and 8 bug fixes, respectively. No patches are planned for Oracle's Collaboration Suite and JD Edwards products. Oracle's 10g and 9i databases will both be patched next week. The software vendor releases its updates on a quarterly basis, meaning that these updates typically contain a lot of patches. For example, July's updates contained 45 fixes. Following next Tuesday's release, the next Critical Patch Update is set for January 15.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9042438&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

34. *October 15, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **VZW intros new opt-out policy for dissemination of calling records.** Verizon Wireless is requiring customers to opt out of allowing the carrier to share their customer proprietary network information (CPNI), a new policy that could spark protest from the carrier's customers. CPNI comprises users' calling records and includes the numbers of incoming and outgoing calls and time spent on each call, among other data. Verizon Wireless last week began sending letters notifying customers that they have 30 days to opt out of the program by calling an 800 number before their information would be shared. "In order to better serve your communications needs and to identify, offer and provide products and services to meet your requirements, we need your permission to share this information among our affiliates, agents and parent companies (including Vodafone) and their subsidiaries," the company informed subscribers. "Unless you provide us with notice that you wish to opt out within 30 days of receiving this letter, we will assume that you give the Verizon Companies the right to share your CPNI with the authorized companies as described above." CPNI has become a contentious issue in recent years as telecommunications firms and others seek to leverage their networks by delivering highly targeted ads. The Federal Communications Commission earlier this year strengthened its privacy rules regarding CPNI following the pretexting scandals that darkened the industry last year.
Source: <http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071012/FREE/71012004/1002>
35. *October 15, Computerworld* – (National) **Privacy concerns dog IT efforts to implement RFID.** Privacy concerns related to the use of radio frequency identification technology are reaching new heights, as legislators increasingly look to restrict RFID deployments and corporate employees criticize efforts to use it in identification badges. At the same time, champions of the technology contend that not enough is being done to promote the value of RFID. For example, they say, it can be used to track tainted foods or counterfeit drugs or to reduce inventory-tracking costs. IT executives attending the RFID World conference in Boston last month said employee fears have forced some companies to change or even cancel plans to use badges embedded with RFID technology. The manager and counsel for technology policy and state government affairs at the AeA, formerly known as the American Electronics Association, noted that more and more state legislatures are seeking to limit the use of RFID technology. While RFID privacy concerns "are taken very seriously in state governments across the U.S.," most legislators do not understand the value of the technology, he contended. Aderson said 50 bills aimed at limiting RFID were introduced in 19 states in 2007, and three became law.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=305197&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

36. *October 14, The Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Hawaii still recovering from year-ago quakes.** *The Honolulu Advertiser* reports that a year after two earthquakes (one 6.7 and 6.0

magnitude) struck Hawaii, 94 buildings are still unusable in whole or in part. The damage from the quakes has been estimated at more than \$200 million, but there was no comprehensive tally of the damage to public facilities, homes and businesses, so it is unclear if that estimate is accurate.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071014/NEWS01/710140357/1001/NEWS01>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

37. *October 13, The Wall Street Journal* – (Washington) **Word to poachers from Deputy: ‘Gather no moss’**. Moss poachers are frequently found in the Olympic National Forest in Washington. Moss has recently become more popular as a trendy ground and outdoor wall cover. It is also used in small, desktop rock gardens and as a base in Japanese bonsai-tree kits. Gardening Web sites and TV shows advocate its low-maintenance growing potential, the cushiony feel of walking barefoot on it, and even the plant’s supposedly stress-reducing green color. Because it is difficult to grow commercially, there is a lot of demand for moss harvested from nature. The damp climate of the Olympic Forest provides soggy conditions perfect for green moss, and thus for poachers. Washington law-enforcement officials have documented elaborate, secretive moss-poaching rings in the western part of the state. Last year, more than 100 greenery thieves on private property and national forest land were arrested.

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119223579420958031.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

38. *October 14, The Mail Tribune* – (Oregon) **BLM races to shore up Little Hyatt Dam**. Last week, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced plans to shore up the west abutment of the crumbling Little Hyatt Dam in Oregon as a temporary safety measure before the Cascade Mountains experience heavy fall rains and winter snow. The Bureau intends to move quickly to obtain construction bids and award a contract, said the Ashland Resource Area manager for the agency’s Medford District. Increased leaking this autumn from the dam, located at around 5,000 feet in elevation on Keene Creek a few miles north of Greensprings, raised concerns about its structural integrity. The 18-foot-high, circa-1923 dam creates an 11-acre reservoir that is a popular recreational site. A report by an independent engineering firm indicated the dam remains repairable, estimating the current cost would be \$721,000. However, that estimate did not include construction of a coffer dam, delivery of water downstream or associated design and contracting costs that would increase the repair bill to more than \$1 million. In addition to identifying the structural problem on the dam’s west side, the report also identified multiple weak spots and “soft concrete” in the structure, including a 15-inch hole on the upstream side. Although those areas could lead to the dam’s failure and draining of the lake, the report indicated it is unlikely to result in a catastrophic failure, officials said.

Source: <http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071014/NEWS/710140330>

39. *October 14, Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **State finishes visual check on dams.** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials ordered immediate inspections of all high-hazard dams in August after the local daily the *Journal Sentinel* raised questions about dams that had not been inspected in 10 years, as required by law. The department completed visual examinations of the dams last month and plans to conduct full inspections by next August, said the executive assistant to DNR secretary. Though the DNR has drawn down the water behind one dam, it found no major problems with the 26 dams it inspected.
Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=674521>
40. *October 14, Flint Journal* – (Michigan) **In dire straits: Two dams need fix – yesterday.** *The Flint Journal* reports that two dams in Flint, Michigan are in desperate need of repairs. The crumbling, 87-year-old Hamilton Dam is one of Michigan's five worst dams and engineers believe it could fail soon, "sending torrents of contaminated floodwaters through downtown Flint, draining the city's emergency water supply and threatening businesses, homes and lives." The city conducted minor, temporary repairs to the dam in 1989, but little has been done since. Additionally, the city's Thread Lake Dam, built in the 1880s on Thread Creek southeast of downtown Flint, is in such poor shape that the state Department of Environmental Quality could order the water drawn down if it is not repaired or replaced. Repairs likely would cost more than \$1 million. While removing the dam would be cheaper, doing so would expose contaminated sediments from historic industrial pollution and leave nearby residents with acres of mudflats.
Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/flintjournal/index.ssf?/base/news-46/1192341578325660.xml&coll=5>
41. *October 12, Orange County Register* – (California) **Emergency may be declared to fix H.B. levee.** A section of a county flood control channel that cuts through Huntington Beach is in such disrepair that the Board of Supervisors is set to decide Tuesday whether to declare an emergency to fix the levee before the next big storm. County officials are urging supervisors to declare an emergency and approve plans to repair the damaged levee of the northerly East Garden Grove-Wintersburg Channel, which slices through a Huntington Beach neighborhood and a proposed Shea Homes development. Repairing the levee from 3,800 feet downstream of Graham Street west to the Old Oil Road Bridge may cost the county an estimated \$8 million to \$10 million. The emergency declaration would allow supervisors to expedite the process. For instance, the bidding process could be cut to three days from five weeks. The project could be under way by the end of the month and take about 75 working days to complete, officials said.
Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/levee-homes-county-1889348-flood-shea>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non–commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.